

# INFORMATION REPORT

**SECRET**

CD NO.

25X1A2G

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

DATE DISTR. 28 Mar 1949

**SUBJECT** Production of Geiger and Beta  
Counters at Pressler AG

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF IN

25X1A6A

25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U.S.C., 91 AND 92, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. The Pressler AG in Cursdorf (Thuringia) has been producing regular Geiger counters and counters with small windows for the exploration of very soft beta ray activity. As reported in [ ] the Russians ordered the firm to produce 10,000 regular counters per month, but actual production has been much less. For the last six months soft beta ray counters have been produced at the rate of 250 to 300 per month.

25X1A2G

2. The two counter types differ not only in the wall construction of the tubes but also in volume. The windows of the second type are made of mica of 1 cm air equivalent thickness. The tubes provided with windows, in order to keep down the gas volume, have an average volume of about three cubic centimeters, a diameter of about one centimeter and various lengths, varying between 2½ to four centimeters. The regular counters have a diameter of about two centimeters and a length up to twenty centimeters. (As reported previously their walls consist of potassium-free glass with a very thin silver layer.)

- ### 3. Use of counters

The window-type counters serve the purpose of indicating very soft beta activity, for instance, of  $C^{14}$ , an active carbon isotope emanating very soft beta rays. Both types are used for research, survey, monitoring, etc., but also for an additional particular purpose, namely, for indicating the presence of radio-active poisons. Generally speaking and regardless of war purposes, both types are indispensable for modern chemical and physiological research and are being applied in these fields (as tracer chemicals).

- #### 4. Destination of counters

The Pressler firm does not ship the counters to their destinations. Therefore no definite destinations are known. The counters are taken from the firm by the Russians. It is reported that a large part of the counters, including a relatively small number of window type counters, is being distributed to units of the Russian Army, down to company level, for the purpose of indicating the presence of radio-active activity and mainly of radio-active poisons, in case of war. This is in addition to their standard use for research and uranium exploration.

| CLASSIFICATION |   |      |   |      |  |              |  | <del>SECRET</del> |  |  |  |
|----------------|---|------|---|------|--|--------------|--|-------------------|--|--|--|
| STATE          | X | NAVY | X | NSRB |  | DISTRIBUTION |  |                   |  |  |  |
| ARMY           | X | AIR  | X | FBI  |  | Gen X        |  |                   |  |  |  |

This document is hereby regraded to **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Approved For Release

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Document No.

NO CHANGE in class

DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO:

DDA Memo. 4

0462R00-500290070

Date: 8 MAY 78

TS 25Y1